IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Amended): A computer implemented system for managing a flow of network status messages to a network operations console, comprising:

a processor; and

a computer readable medium encoded with processor readable instructions that when executed by the processor implement,

a network status gathering mechanism configured to ascertain a network status,

a network status reporting mechanism configured to report said network status to said network operations console, and

a network status reporting level determination mechanism configured to determine a level of detail to report said network status to said network operations console based on a user request and a predetermined allocation of bandwidth for use in reporting network status.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein:

said network status gathering mechanism is configured to gather network status information from plural switches; and

said network status reporting level determination mechanism is configured to determine said level of detail on a switch by switch basis.

Claim 3 (Previously Amended) A method of managing a flow of network status messages to a network operations console, comprising the steps of:

gathering network status;

determining a reporting level at which to report network status based on a user request and a predetermined allocation of bandwidth for use in providing network status; and

providing network status to said network operations console at said reporting level from said determining step.

Claim 4 (Previously Amended) A system for managing a flow of network status messages to a network operations console, comprising:

means for gathering network status;

means for determining a reporting level at which to report network status based on a request and a predetermined allocation of bandwidth for use in providing network status; and

means for providing network status to said network operations console at said reporting level from said determining step.

Claim 5 (Previously Amendment) A computer program product, comprising:

a computer storage medium and a computer program code mechanism embedded in the computer storage medium for causing a processor to facilitate the management of a flow of network status messages to a network operations console, the computer program code mechanism comprising:

a first computer code device configured to gather a network status;

a second computer code device configured to determine a reporting level at which to report network status based on a user request and a predetermined allocation of bandwidth for use in providing network status; and

a third computer code device configured to provide network status to said network operations console at said reporting level determined by said second computer code device.